

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (new): A maintenance apparatus (10, 100) for a medical handpiece (12) with a chucking structure (52) for detachably chucking and holding a rotary tool (39) along an axis (51) and a bearing (48,49) for rotatably supporting the chucking structure (52) along the axis (51); comprising:

a maintenance fluid supply nozzle (40, 144) fluidly connected to a second fluid supply (38, 122), the nozzle (40, 144) being designed so as to be detachably connected in the chucking structure (52, 152) in place of the rotary tool (39) so that the maintenance fluid is fed through the nozzle (40, 144) into the chucking structure (52, 152).

Claim 10 (new): The maintenance apparatus (10, 100) of claim 9, further comprising a first fluid supply (36) for feeding the maintenance fluid to the bearing (48,49) of the handpiece (12).

Claim 11 (new): The maintenance apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a connector (33) which is so designed that the handpiece (12) is detachably connected to the connector (33), the connector (33) having a feeding passage (36) of the first supply for feeding the maintenance fluid through the first feeding passage (36) to the bearing (48,49) of the handpiece (12) and a feeding passage (38) of the second supply for feeding the maintenance fluid through the nozzle (40) to the chucking structure (52).

Claim 12 (new): The maintenance apparatus of claim 11,
wherein the connector (33) has a recycling passage (37) and the handpiece (12) has a feeding passage (43) and a recycling passage (44),
wherein, when the handpiece (12) is connected to the connector (33), the feeding passages (36, 43) of the connector (33) and the handpiece (12) are connected to each other and the recycling passages (37, 44) of the connector (33) and the handpiece (12) are connected to each other, so that the maintenance fluid is fed through the feeding passages (36, 43) of the connector (33) and the handpiece (12) to the bearing (48, 49) of the handpiece (12)

and then collected through the recycling passages (37, 44) of the connector (33) and the handpiece (12).

Claim 13 (new): The maintenance apparatus according to any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein the nozzle (40) has a hole (41, 42) for injecting the maintenance fluid in the form of mist.